

28 January 1954

COFRAMET S.A.

1. A BFC World Trade Directory Report dated February 1952 stated that the firm COFRAMET S.A. (Cie Franco-American des Metaux et Mineraux), 69 bd. Haussmann, Paris 8e, was founded in 1924, has 60 employees, a capital of 61 million francs, and annual sales of 3,454,633,000 francs. US representative for COFRAMET is the firm Mercantile Metal and Ore Company. It has a subsidiary in French Morocco called COFRAMET-AFRIQUE, 14 rue de l'Aviation Francaise, Casablanca. The report listed the following as members of the Board of Directors: President, Andre Armengaud; General Manager, Marcel Depre; Pierre Ricard; Auguste Leveneu; Henri Payol; Rene Schwob; Andre Reynaud; Maurice de Baudoin; and Eugene Lubovitch.

2. A French directory of firms bearing a 1953 date also lists Paul Bernard, Maurice Garreau-Dombasle and Jacques Laurent as members of the Board of Directors.

3. Biographic data available on some of these individuals is as follows:

a. Andre Armengaud - an industrialist and a member of the French Senate in 1952.

b. Paul Bernard - a French industrialist who deals in pulp and paper, salt and rubber.

c. Jacques Laurent - the general manager of a French steel mill.

d. Pierre Ricard - an industry representative on the French Atomic Energy Commission. He is also President of the French Steel Syndicate.

e. Eugene Lubovitch - the principal shareholder in COFRAMET. He also has interests in Mercantile Metal and Ore Company of New York which has subsidiaries all over the world.

4. Information on the COFRAMET firm is very fragmentary. In June 1952 Louis Facon, a Belgian national residing in Tangier, offered 450 tons of antimony of Chinese origin for 126,000 US dollars to COFRAMET. The antimony was allegedly part of a compensation deal between a Tangier firm and a Hong Kong firm whereby 1260 tons of paper boxes would be exchanged for 450 tons of antimony. However, since Facon had been reported previously as an intermediary in evading export controls with respect to shipments to Czechoslovakia and in contact with other

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Soviet bloc commercial agents, the American Legation in Tangier was of the opinion that the dollars earned from the sale of the antimony would undoubtedly be used to purchase strategic materials rather than paper boxes.

5. In August 1952 the American Embassy in Madrid reported a suspicious shipment of wolfram brought to their attention by the Consulate at Vigo. On 15 July 1952 the SS JUPITER loaded 28.6 tons of wolfram at Vigo for COFRAMET, Paris, via Amsterdam. The local shipping agent felt somewhat suspicious of this shipment as a French vessel destined for Bordeaux on which the shipment could have been made at half the cost was scheduled for departure from Vigo within a few days. He informed the Spanish shipper of the difference in cost. The export license for this shipment provided for payment in dollars (\$135,576). The results of the investigation of this shipment are not known.

6. Your attention is also invited to Vienna telegram to Paris 238 (for SRE), 18 December 1952, which mentions a Paris OM dated 5 December and some connection of COFRAMET with Fernand J.E. Hueller, the frequently reported procurer of strategic metals for the Soviet Bloc. This telegram states that 115 tons of Austrian aluminum consigned to COFRAMET was received eventually by the French firm, Cegedur. Another source reported that an end-use certificate for 500 tons of copper wire issued in the name of Cegedur had been acquired by the notorious Josef Gremer in December of 1952. It is not known if this transaction was ever completed.